



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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Situation Report Winter Storm Event February 2, 2009 4:30 PM

UPDATED INFORMATION IN BOLD

SUMMARY

A Canadian cold front pushed into Missouri Monday, mixing with Gulf moisture and creating hazardous weather conditions. There have been six fatalities reported in weather-related accidents throughout the state. Officials report power is out on about **39,650** meters across south and southeast Missouri. Dept of Social Services report **30** shelters with **698** clients. National Weather Service indicated some areas in south Missouri received from ½ to 1" of freezing rain. Other areas had up to 4" of sleet or up to 7" of snow. Governor Nixon directed SEMA to activate the State Emergency Operations Center and signed an Executive Order activating the Missouri National Guard for State Emergency Duty.

Governor Nixon requested an expedited Declaration of this disaster from the President. On Friday, the President approved Gov. Nixon's request for emergency assistance. The Missouri Attorney General's office issued a news release about potential disaster-related fraud and price gouging. The news release contains the number for the Consumer Protection Hotline, which is 800-392-8222. Governor Nixon signed Executive Order 09-07, authorizing DNR's Director to waive certain restrictions related to debris disposal, open burning and wastewater, on January 30, 2009 and effective until March 31, 2009.

SEMA has activated the State EOC to a level two activation. Appropriate State agencies have reported to the State EOC and are responding to requests from County and City officials.

Power outages - Utilities:

Ameren UE – About **11,400** meters are without power, primarily in southeast Missouri. Some 4,000 workers are involved in storm restoration efforts. An estimated 1,600 poles are down due to the storm.

Missouri Electric Cooperatives – Several cooperatives are reporting **19,000** meters without power. Estimates are that at least 5,000 utility poles are down, in addition to transmission lines.

Missouri Public Utilities Alliance - An estimated 9,250 meters remain without power. Concentrating on City of Malden and City of Thayer. West Plains has released crews to help with other utilities.

Counties/Cities Reports:

Butler County – 95% with power, they still have about 700 meter out in the City of Poplar Bluff and 1,300 out in the County. No further assistance requested at this time. All generators are in place and functioning properly.

Cape Girardeau County – One circuit in the southwest part of the county went down and will not be back up until the Electric Cooperative can bring it back on line. No critical needs at this time.

Carter County – Health and wellness checks are continuing. Medical shut-ins and elderly requesting help with getting oxygen tanks restocked – Department of Health and Human Services will assist with this issue. City of Grandin is now out of power. Still have 1,000 rural residents without power. Roads are sloppy, but they are getting meals and water out to the rural residents. No critical needs at this time.

Dunklin County – All cities have water supply systems up and running. Chain saw crews were working to open up roads. Clarkton is putting their power poles back up, level of power restoration unknown at this time. City of Malden has 70% electrical power. City of Campbell is up to 50% power. City of Clarkton is up to 75% power. Delivered ice to Senath for distribution for the southern part of the county. Fuel is available, but power is out in the southern part of the county.

Howell County – Working with ARC on water issues for those residents on well water. Local firefighters were doing wellness checks. City of West Plains has power restored, but significant outages remain in the County. Howell County officials report 2,722 residents still without power. Most roads are open, at least single lane. They have plenty of water. Shelter closed yesterday. Most communities are back on line, most of the remaining people out of power are in the southern portion of the county.

Mississippi County – MONG is doing wellness checks. Charleston water supply is good and they are looking into assisting the other local water districts. Rural power systems are still out. Shelters were closed Sunday. Two shelters remain on standby. Charleston and East Prairie are at 100% power. Water is o.k. in Anniston.

New Madrid County – MONG is conducting wellness checks. Power outside of the City of New Madrid still remains nearly 100% out. Continued wellness checks and they are distributing meals and water. Incident Support Team and MONG liaison are still in place. Portageville schools not expected to be back until next Monday. Critical need is replacement generator(s). City of Portageville is about 55% with power.

Oregon County – City of Alton at approximately 10-15% without power. High school there reports six rooms damaged by melting ice and snow. Wilderness, Rover, Myrtle, and areas north of Thayer are still without power. Conservation crews have completed debris clearance in rural part of county. Wellness checks are still being conducted. Myrtle well is on-line. Oregon County is under a boil-water order.

Ozark County – Still some residents without power. An estimated 75% of county roads are open. Wellness checks being conducted and as they are doing the checks they are delivering MRE's and water. All shelters are closed.

Pemiscot County - County is under Boil Water Order. City of Caruthersville getting water out to residents, clearing debris to side of roadways, and setting up feeding center. Caruthersville is getting power back up. Received a load of water Sunday and supply is adequate. No critical needs at this time.

Ripley County – MONG doing health and wellness checks, as well as clearing county roads of debris. Water system is back up. About 60% of power has been restored. Food and water being distributed to communities. 5,000 MRE's and more water have arrived. City of Doniphan is at 80% and City of Naylor is about 100% power on. No critical needs at this time.

Scott County – An estimated **40%** of county is without power. City of Sikeston reports 55% of residential power is out. Several residents have been treated for carbon monoxide exposure and injuries while clearing debris. Some industrial and agricultural buildings have shown collapsed in an aerial survey. Local officials have concerns about price gouging of kerosene and tree removal fees. City of Sikeston has finished their health and wellness checks. All communities have at least some power. Water systems are back up and running. Consolidation of shelters is a priority to allow the schools to take back their structures. No critical needs at this time.

Stoddard County – About 35% of county is without power. Conservation chainsaw crew and bulldozer assisted in debris clearance. Essex and Gray Ridge are still without power. All water districts are back up on electrical grid power or generator power. Schools will try to open on Wednesday. 100% of their wellness checks were completed. City of Dexter is doing further clean up. No critical needs at this time.

State Agencies:

ESF-1 Transportation - Missouri Department of Transportation reports **12** road closures in southeast Missouri, either due to utility damage or debris on the road. Commercial Motor Vehicle waivers have been extended to February 5th.

ESF-2 Communications – MSHP sent eight technicians to Poplar Bluff to assist with distribution of generators. Working phone problems with the carriers, especially landlines. Checking batteries on remote cellular tower sites is becoming a high priority as roads are cleared. Scattered phone outages reported throughout Southeast Missouri. Most cellular service is back up.

ESF-3 Public Works – DNR/Water is working to assist local jurisdictions with their water utility system issues. They are issuing information on disinfecting water. Water samples should be sent to Butler County Health Department in order to be taken to Jefferson City Health Lab for testing. Conservation has chainsaw crews moving debris from roads. They currently have crews working in Dunklin, Oregon, Ripley, and Stoddard counties.

ESF-4/9 Fire/Search and Rescue - Missouri State Fire Marshal indicates 14 firefighters were sent to affected areas under mutual aid in Kennett. Also providing assistance with Incident Support Teams in New Madrid and Ozark Counties. New Madrid County IST was replenished on Monday.

ESF-5 Emergency Management - SEMA is at level two activation and the State EOC is on a 24-hour staffing pattern. SEMA officials encourage local jurisdictions to document their storm-related expenses for potential reimbursement, if a Federal Disaster Declaration is received for Public Assistance.

ESF-6 Human Services - Department of Social Services and partners -- American Red Cross, Salvation Army, AmeriCorps, United Way 211, Humane Society and others -- are continuing to serve shelters in several communities in the affected area. DSS employees are working in shelters, as well as assuring state services are continuing to families, both impacted and unaffected. Water and food have arrived in suitable quantities at the distribution centers. Shelter figures are winding down (**30** shelters with **698** clients). Salvation Army, Red Cross and others continue to coordinate requests for food and water.

ESF-7 Logistics – All outstanding requests to SEMA for generators are being addressed. As generators are being freed up, they are being reassigned or returned. MO Office of Administration reports a number of state offices and facilities are closed in the affected area. For state office building closures, call (888) 390-9927. Dept. of Corrections continues to have personnel and equipment delivering generators. In addition, the Community Supervision Center in Kennett is housing linemen in the area.

ESF- 8 Public Health – Department of Health and Senior Services is monitoring hospitals, long-term care facilities, local public health agencies, and senior and disabled clients. **Checking with the hospitals and nursing homes to see if their generators are working properly and they have enough diesel.** 15 nursing facilities are still on generators. Continue to work on tetanus prophylaxis for affected areas. Three environmental public health specialists requested the area to assist with reinspection of food service and grocery. Facilities county-wide have arrived on scene. Continue to receive questions related to oxygen for individuals. Dept. of Mental Health assisting local healthcare providers as needed. Disaster-related fact sheets are on DMH website. DMAT personnel are assisting at Missouri Delta Hospital in Sikeston.

ESF-10 Hazardous Materials – DNR-EER is monitoring the situation and will respond if needed. Looking into debris management issues.

ESF-11 Agriculture – Dept. of Agriculture is monitoring the situation and handling some poultry issues that have arisen. Ag Department is checking building collapses in Southeast Missouri.

ESF-12 Energy – DNR Energy working to make sure fuel will be available for distribution in the affected area. PSC reminds affected people that weather heads are the customer's responsibility and not the utilities.

ESF-13 Public Safety – Missouri State Highway Patrol has troopers assisting local jurisdictions as requested, working accidents and keeping highways cleared of accidents. ESF-13 sent a contingent of 30 Law Enforcement officers to support Troop E – this includes 20 State Highway Patrol Officers, eight Missouri State Water Patrol officers, and two Deputy Sheriff's from Camden County. Criminal problems are reportedly at a minimum. Officers assisting with curfew-enforcement in some affected areas. Water Patrol is helping to haul critical supplies, conduct wellness checks, and to assist with security. Water Patrol is hauling critical supplies from the Poplar Bluff distribution center to affected areas in the region.

ESF-14 Long Term Recovery – DNR/Parks has crews mobilizing into New Madrid and Mississippi Counties to begin restoration/recovery efforts at one historical site and one state park. Both locations were damaged in the storm and are without power.

ESF-15 Public Affairs – Working on a flyer for public safety tips.

ESF-16 Missouri National Guard – MONG has 403 citizen-soldiers assisting with the disaster response effort; 371 are on State Emergency Duty. Troops are assisting with wellness checks and debris clearance.

ESF-17 Animal Welfare – A Humane Society of Missouri survey team is in southeast Missouri to assist local jurisdictions. 166 animals rescued to date. Over 9,000 pounds of pet food was delivered to the distribution site and animal shelters. **Looking for additional dog food for distribution.** They have set up temporary kennels at Poplar Bluff, New Madrid and Portageville. They have emptied the shelters at Sikeston, Caruthersville and Kennett to make room for further 'drop-offs'.

Volunteer Agencies:

United Way – 211 – Up and running and taking calls. They have received about **416** calls to date.

American Red Cross – Assisting with Shelter requests.

AmeriCorps Volunteers – Several Teams providing support for shelters. Approximately 47 AmeriCorps Volunteers are working this disaster throughout the area.

Civil Air Patrol -- Ground, air, and communication assets remain on alert to assist if requested. **Ground teams completed health and wellness checks in Malden. Aerial assessment photos taken of Sikeston, Kennett and Malden.**

Convoy of Hope – Sent a truck to Poplar Bluff distribution site Wednesday with water and MREs.

Salvation Army – Assisting in feeding operations at various sites, as needed. Working with American Red Cross on the feeding situation.

Weather:

The National Weather Service is calling for a chance of some flurries tonight in southeast Missouri with a low in the mid 20s. No measurable precipitation is expected. It should be partly to mostly sunny Tuesday and Wednesday with a high in the low 30s. Lows on Tuesday and Wednesday night are expected to be between 15 and 20 degrees. Warmer and continued dry weather is ahead for Thursday and Friday with highs around 50. The next chance of precipitation returns next weekend, with a chance of showers Saturday and Sunday and highs in the mid to upper 50s.

Point of Contact:

The State Emergency Management Agency can be contacted at 573-526-9100. This number will be staffed until further notice on a 24-hour basis.